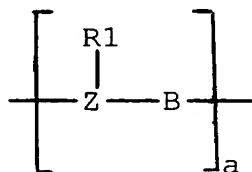


In the Claims

The original application, as filed, contained Claims 1 - 23. Claims 1 - 14, 19 and 21 has been amended, Claims 15 - 18, 20 and 22 - 23 have been canceled and new Claim 24 has been added, as shown on the following pages:

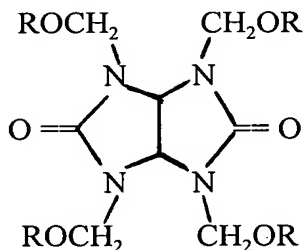
A complete listing of all claims in the application follows:

1. (Currently amended) Water-soluble aminoplast ether copolymers of the following structural type:



where

Z ~~is~~ comprises an aminoplast unit based on a glycoluril of formula



~~which is unsubstituted or substituted by a reactive OR group, (wherein R is an selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, alkylene, alkyl ether or and alkyl ester acyl groups preferably a lower alkyl group, e.g., a methyl or ethyl group):~~

B comprises a ~~is the~~ radical of an essentially water-insoluble polymer selected from poly-n-butyl acrylate, poly-n-butyl methacrylate, polyethyl acrylate, polytetrahydrofuran, polyethyl methacrylate, polymethyl acrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, a predominantly aliphatic polycarbonate ~~or and~~ a predominantly aromatic polycarbonate,

~~which are able to react with the OR-function of the aminoplast unit, and more preferably from a poly-n-butyl methacrylate or a predominantly aliphatic or aromatic polycarbonate having at least two functional groups which are able to react with the OR function of the aminoplast unit, preferably having a hydroxyl function;~~

R1 ~~is the~~ comprises a radical of a hydrophilic organic compound containing at least one functional group which is able to react with the OR function group of the aminoplast unit to form an ether bond, ~~preferably having a hydroxyl function;~~ and
a is at least 1.

2. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the molar ratio R1:B is greater than 1. ~~preferably from about 1.5 to 4.~~

3. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 ~~or 2,~~ characterized in that wherein R1 is selected from a ~~the~~ radical of methylcellulose, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, ethylene/acrylic acid/sodium acrylate copolymer, polyalkylglycol, polyvinyl alcohols ~~or~~ and polyvinylpyrrolidone, ~~preferably the radical of a methoxy-terminated polyalkylglycol.~~

4. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of

~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~
~~wherein at least one side-chain R1 radical is water-soluble~~
and connected via an ether bridge to the ~~central~~ aminoplast
unit Z.

5. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of
~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~
~~wherein the reactive OR group R is selected from the group~~
consisting of ~~alkylol, alkyleneol, alkylol ethers and/or~~
~~alkylol esters~~ alkyl groups having 1 to about 4 carbon atoms,
and acyl groups having 1 to about 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of
~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~
~~wherein the reactive OR group is a methoxy group R is~~
selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl
groups.

7. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of
~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~
~~wherein the R1 radical has a molar mass of from about 500 to~~
~~30 000 g/mol, in particular from about 1000 to 20 000 g/mol,~~
~~more preferably from about 1500 to 10 000 g/mol.~~

8. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of
~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~

wherein the B radical has a molar mass of from about 100 to 30 000 g/mol., ~~in particular from about 200 to 20 000 g/mol,~~
~~more preferably from about 300 to 10 000 g/mol.~~

9. (Currently amended) Aminoplast ether copolymers of ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that Claim 1~~
~~wherein~~ their overall molar mass of the copolymers is from about 1000 to 100 000 g/mol, ~~in particular from about 2000 to 50 000 g/mol,~~ more preferably from about 2500 to 40 000 g/mol.

10. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an aminoplast ether copolymer of Claim 1 comprising reacting of
~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the aminoplast unit Z ~~are reacted with the organic compounds B and R1 as defined in one of claims 1 to 8 and/or radicals or~~ with prepolymers formed therefrom under acidic catalysts in solution. ~~or without solvent, preferably in a one-pot process.~~

11. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reaction is carried out in a one-pot process in from 15% to 35% strength solution in respect of ~~monomers~~ total reactants used ~~(total reactants),~~
~~in particular in from 20% to 30% strength solution at 70 to 130°C, and, after a reaction time of from~~ reacting for about

2 to 10 h, ~~preferably from 2.5 to 8 h, adding a~~ neutralizing agent, ~~e.g., an amine, is added in order~~ to obtain molar masses of the copolymers of from about 2000 to 50 000 g/mol.⁷ ~~more preferably from about 2500 to 40 000 g/mol.~~

12. (Currently amended) An Aminoplast ether copolymers obtained by the process ~~according to~~ of Claim 10 ~~or 11~~.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The use of an aminoplast ether copolymer of one of claims 1 to 9 or prepared according to claim 10 or 11 as~~ A dispersant or stabilizer for pigments or fillers comprising the aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The use of claim 13, characterized in that the~~ The dispersant or stabilizer ~~is used of~~ Claim 13 mixed in an aqueous systems.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) ~~The use of one of claims 13 to 18 for preparing a~~ A coating composition, ~~for which comprising a binder, optionally a solvent, pigments and/or fillers, and the aminoplast ether copolymer of Claim 1 and optionally auxiliaries are~~ dispersed together.

" " "

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A pigment paste comprising a pigment, a solvent and an the aminoplast ether copolymer of ~~one of claims 1 to 9, prepared according to claim 10 or 11, or a graft polymer or graft copolymer, as defined in claim 20, as dispersant.~~

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein the essentially water-insoluble polymer B comprises a hydroxyl function.

Discussion of Amendments to Claims.

The applicants have amended the claims to remove alternative language which is not permissible under U.S. patent practice. Further, the applicants have amended the language of the claims to place it in better condition for review by the USPTO.

With regard to Claim 1, the applicant has added language to Claim 1 concerning the glycoluril unit. Basis for the text of this unit is contained on page 11. The applicants have also amended Claims 2 - 14, 19 and 21 to place them in better condition for review.

New Claim 24 has been added. It was based on a preferable embodiment shown in original Claim 1 of the application.

No new subject matter is introduced in any of these claims.